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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

28 FEB 1972

COMPTROLLER

(Administration)

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TUFARO

SUBJECT: The Clay Blair Case

In connection with the subject case you requested last month (1) some samples of the intercepted Japanese messages of World War II and (2) assurance that existing regulations rather than the content of such messages prevent declassification and release.

In carrying out your first request, some difficulties were encountered, the solution of which was delayed in part by my ten-day absence from the office. This effort has been revived and I will keep you informed of the progress made.

As for your second request, we certainly cannot state that all of the intercepted messages are -- sight unseen -- readily releasable as far as subject matter is concerned. We believe, however, on the basis of samples seen that at least 95 percent of these messages, and probably more, can be declassified and released if a change in existing regulations will permit a classification review.

R. A. Winnacker

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Historian, OSD